

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. TODAY'S PRESS BANNERS (A) SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN CAIRO;
(B) INTER-ARAB VISITS AND POSSIBLE ARAB SUMMIT; (C) MILITARY
MOVES AND INCIDENTS ON EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS.

2. MAIN BANNERS OF ALL BUT PRO-SOVIET PAPERS ANNOUNCE
SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN CAIRO; MOST REFER TO INSTABILITY OF
MILITARY SITUATION AS WELL. LEADING INDEPENDENT FRENCH
L'ORIENT-LE JOUR BANNERS: "SADAT-KISSINGER: LAST-CHANCE
MEETING. WITHOUT CONCRETE RESULTS, WAR MAY BE RESUMED, IT
IS BELIEVED IN CAIRO". LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC AN-NAHAR
BANNERS: "AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO MOVE ISRAELI FORCES FROM
THEIR POSITIONS ON SUEZ. CAIRO RECEIVES KISSINGER WITH
'CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM'. SADAT AND AMERICAN SECRETARY
STUDYING RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS?" OPPORTUNISTIC INDEPEN-
DENT AL-BAYRAQ BANNERS: "FAHMI TO KISSINGER: SADAT COMMITTED
TO WAR IF ISRAELIS DO NOT WITHDRAW". PRO-CAIRO AL-YOUM
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BANNERS: "SADAT MEETS KISSINGER TODAY. CAIRO: WHAT IS

NEEDED IS RAPID SETTLEMENT. IF NOT, FIGHTING WILL BE RESUMED".

3. INTER-ARAB VISITS AND POSSIBLE ARAB SUMMIT, AS WELL AS MILITARY MOVES AND INCIDENTS ON EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS, ARE FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN MOST PAPERS, WITH EMPHASIS ON ARAB UNITY AND STEADFASTNESS. PRO-WEST NIDA AL-WATAN, REFERRING TO SAUDI DEFMIN'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS, BANNERS: "FEISAL MOBILIZES CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT ARAB STEADFASTNESS". INDEPENDENT FRENCH AS-SAFA BANNERS: "AS KISSINGER MEETS SADAT THIS MORNING, ARABS CLOSE RANKS". LEFTIST PRO-COMMANDO AL-MUHARRIR AND PRO-COMMANDO AL-LIWA BANNER REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN FIRST ARMY HAS ENCIRCLED ISRAELI FORCES ON WEST BANK.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT FOCUSES ON SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CAIRO AND ON EEC'EZANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMON MIDEAST POLICY.

5. ON SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CAIRO, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "RACE AGAINST WAR", COMMENTS: "IN CAIRO IS AN AMERICAN FROM WHOM, THANKS TO CULTIVATION OF MYTH, MIRACLES ARE EXPECTED. NEAR EAST WILL THUS LIVE LONGEST 32 HOURS OF ITS HISTORY IN A DIPLOMATIC MARATHON. . . . SORDID CUISINE OR SUBTLE DIPLOMACY, WE WILL KNOW SOON ENOUGH. . . . TEST IS AS SIMPLE AS IT IS DECISIVE: IF U.S. IS NOT ABLE TO BRING ISRAEL BACK TO OCT. 22 POSITIONS, HOW CAN IT BE BELIEVED THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO IMPOSE RETREAT TO 1967 BORDERS . . . ? ARABS CANNOT IN FACT RESPECT CEASE-FIRE INDEFINITELY THIS TIME, THEY ARE HOLDING TOO MANY TRUMP CARDS TO SIMPLY SAY 'I PASS'. SAME WITH ISRAELIS. THEY HAVE SUFFERED TOO MANY DIPLOMATIC REVERSALS NOT TO ATTEMPT TO CORRECT THEIR POLITICAL HANDICAP ON THE GROUND". PRO-CAIRO AL-ANWAR, IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "KISSINGER'S TRIP, OR SEARCH FOR LOST TIME", COMMENTS: "WHAT EXACTLY DID KISSINGER COME TO DO, IN ARAB CAPITALS? DID HE COME IN SEARCH OF PEACE? OR OF TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO CRISIS? AND WHICH CRISIS? CEASE-FIRE CRISIS? OR CRISIS OF SECURE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL? OR WHOLE ARAB-ISRAELI CRISIS . . . ? HIS TRIP COMES CLOSE TO BEING FUTILE SEARCH FOR LOST TRUTH. BUT WHO KNOWS -- KISSINGER MAY HAVE DISCOVERED THAT IT IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO WITHDRAW FROM ARAB TERRITORIES AND COME TO BARGAIN ABOUT PRICE. ONLY IN SUCH A CASE COULD HIS TRIP HAVE ANY PRACTICAL VALUE".

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AL MUHARRIR COMMENTS: " IF HENRY KISSINGER IMAGINES THAT ANYONE IN ARAB NATION SEES HIM AS 'PEACE PROPHET'. . . HE IS GREATLY DECEIVED. . . . WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KISSINGER IS IGNORANT OF WHAT ARABS WANT. . . . AMERICA ALONE HAS RIGHT TO CHOOSE: EITHER IT FORCES ITS CLIENT TO WITHDRAW. . . OR FIGHTING RESUMES".

6. ON EEC ANNOUNCEMENT, AS-SAFA COMMENTS: "ON WHOM, ON WHAT, CAN ISRAEL STILL COUNT IN CONTINUING TO BLOCK WAYS TO PEACE. . . ?

EVEN EUROPE. . . HAS JUST DIVESTED ITSELF OF ITS EQUIVOCAL
ATTITUDES. . . 'YOU'RE YIELDING TO OIL BLACKMAIL,' IT WILL
SAY TO EUROPEANS. BUT IT WAS HIGH TIME WORLD STOPPED
SUBMITTING TO ISRAEL'S BLACKMAIL ALONE".
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